Shortage of hotels for tourists in Delhi

† 2379. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of hotels for lodging tourists in Delhi, the officials of her Ministry are accommodating them in their own residential places; and

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has made any arrangements to find out the facts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No such report has come to the notice of the Department.

Conference on drinking water problem

2380. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the two day State Ministers' Conference held in New Delhion January 31 and February 1,2006, the Prime Minister stressed the need for squarely resolving the drinking water problem uder a Five Point Programme by 2009;

(b) if so, the details of the programme; and

(c) the present status of rural and urban population and habitations still devoid of drinking water facility in different States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water supply and sanitation was held on 31st January-1st February 2006 in New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and it was attended by State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water and sanitation and officers of Central and State Governments. A brief report on the conference as furnished by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply is given as Statement *(See* below).

(c) As per Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water supply), as on 31st January, 2006, there are 3891 number of not-covered habitations and 43,585 partially covered habitations under Rural WatefSupply Programme in the country. As per Ministry of Urban Development, about 89% of urban population has been provided with water supply.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.